

2005 White House

Conference on Aging

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Older American Month Conference Workshop – “Paving Our Way”

Date of Event: May 13, 2005

Location of Event: Long Island Marriot, Hempstead Turnpike, Uniondale, NY 11553
(Include city and state)

Number of Persons attending: 200 – 250

Sponsoring Organization(s): Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs (DSCA)

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Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first. Please ensure that your organization's name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.

Priority issue #1: (describe specific issue)

The priority issue is to provide long term care reform for the elderly in a cost effective, comprehensive and humane manner. Providing cost-effective community-based programs and services is the common sense approach for safely maintaining seniors in the community while holding down Medicaid costs..

Barriers: ((list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

Barriers include gridlock, the need for a different structural and philosophical approach to providing long term care, political, and budgetary considerations, as well as high property taxes in Nassau County.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

Maintain , increase or initiate funding as necessary for community-based programs, such as EISEP, Community Services for the Elderly Program, Respite Services, nutrition and transportation programs, home delivered meals , social model adult day care, home modification program, etc. all of which have a proven record of delaying institutionalization (whether nursing home or hospital) and consequently reducing the cost of more expensive care. Additionally, included in long term care planning is the recently passed Assisted Living Reform Act which now provides an oversight of facilities and protection for senior residents. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is an essential aspect in contributing to quality oversight for seniors in assisted living facilities. Educating the public on the importance of purchasing long –term care insurance, the STAR and Enhanced STAR exemptions, plus EPIC, and hopefully improved revisions to Medicare Part D, proposed tax support for family caregivers, etc. are all a part of

assisting individuals to remain in their homes/community.